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13-4473

DDI-2780-63

28 MAY 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting with General Carroll on Soviet Ground Force Project

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1. On Mr. Cline's initiative, a meeting between DIA and CIA personnel was held on 28 May 1963 to discuss the future activities of the joint CIA-DIA panel for the study of Soviet ground forces originally requested by Secretary McNamara. General Carroll, General Quinn [redacted] from DIA and Messrs. Cline and [redacted] from CIA were present.

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2. Mr. Cline started the discussion by stating that some of his concern about the progress of the panel expressed in his letter to General Carroll of 21 May was reduced by the fact that DIA had reviewed the proposed CIA terms of reference and had proposed changes, by DIA's designating a point of contact for the panel and the receipt of DIA's study. He also stated that most of the problems to be discussed were procedural rather than substantive. He also made the following points:

a. The panel must regard the task as a study of the evidence rather than the preparation of another estimate on Soviet ground forces.

b. We in intelligence should work together to answer what is a legitimate request for a professional evaluation of the evidence available and the ranges of uncertainty inherent in the evidence.

c. The panel should address itself to the specific questions raised by the Secretary's letter.

d. DIA and CIA specialists should work closely together at each stage of the process of examining the evidence and preparing the report.

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3. General Carroll agreed and added the following:

a. Both agencies should enter into this study in the frankest way and should not be "inhibited" by past positions or estimates. He considers the exercise as an opportunity to take a "critical, de novo look" at the whole problem and to "bare our breasts" as to the facts.

b. It was his opinion that this study and its results "will have a strong impact on all future estimates" and our relations with the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

4. I stated that we considered this request as an opportunity to devote effort to the study of the costs of Soviet ground forces (a field which had a secondary priority for some time), and that we were not "attached" to our previous estimates of costs.

25X1 5. [] showed us a list of about six or seven requests or standing requirements which were all directly related to the panel's task. We agreed that it would not be beneficial to "re-hash" past estimates in response to these requests, but rather that a thorough job by the panel would satisfy all these requirements.

25X1 6. General Carroll implied that he had named a co-chairman for the panel [] in order that DIA should have a real sense of participation in the effort. Mr. Cline stated that although he did not necessarily anticipate differences between DIA and CIA as to operation or results, any such differences would have to be brought to the attention of the DCI. [] stated flatly, "nothing will be brought to the Director's (DCI's) attention", implying that there would be no disagreements of this magnitude. 25X1

7. When asked about the "assignment" of tasks in the DIA proposed terms of reference, [] stated that the intent was to get some papers on each of the subjects on the table to be used as points of departure and for a basis for discussion. The assignment of these topics were in no way to be considered exclusive, and he invited CIA to prepare papers on any or all of the topics "assigned" to DIA. He said that he did not think that DIA could contribute on any of the topics assigned to CIA but would help if we thought there was anything DIA could do. 25X1

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At this point General Carroll stated that these DIA papers would not represent coordinated DIA positions but would be the views of analysts on the subject; therefore, there would be considerable flexibility in discussion and the drafting of the final report.

8. On the whole, the meeting was very amicable and productive. It set the proper tone of cooperation and reflected a sincere desire to produce an objective study in response to the request of the Secretary. The presence of [] should be very beneficial, in that he is the supervisor of the DIA staff responsible for the study. He has already passed the sense of the meeting to [] the DIA co-chairman.

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Chief, Military-Economic Division, ORR

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